GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016
Direction to Comedy Shows
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council has issued directives not to use foul, obsence and inappropriate language in comedy shows on TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the such TV programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): As part of its self-regulating mechanism, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), which is a representative body of non-news & current affairs TV channels, has set up Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) to examine the complaints regarding content of television programmes aired by its member channels.

BCCC has issued an Advisory dated 27.12.2012 on comedy shows expressing their concern over the trend in comedy shows which often bordered on crass, abusive, vulgar and double-meaning language with sexual overtones in the name of humour. Therefore, BCCC advised all its member channels to exercise discretion to make television viewing more pleasurable and not let such 'comedy shows' become platforms for making lewd remarks and also advised them to use friendly banters without being derisive to any community, religion and individual. The said Advisory is available on IBF website i.e. www.ibfindia.com

(c): In so far as private satellite TV channels are concerned there is no provision for pre-censorship of the content telecast on such TV channels. However, all such TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. Action is taken against defaulting channels whenever any violation of the said codes is noticed or brought to the notice of the Ministry. The Government has set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to review the content of private TV channels with regard to violation of Programme and Advertising Codes.

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